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A1

composite filter in a 316 stainless steel housing passed compatibility tests with nitric acid, CCl<sub>4</sub> and TCE with no change in filtration performance, however, this arrangement is not compatible with HCl because exposure to HCl results in the filter media becoming plugged with a corrosion residue that is moist with condensed acid fumes. Isolated carbon-to-carbon filter media exhibited no plugging when tested in the absence of adjacent stainless steel structure.

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**On page 4, the third full paragraph has been amended as follows:**

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A gas, such as hydrogen gas, accumulates in the head space 17, the gas is vented through the filter media 16. In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the filter media 16 is enclosed within a housing 18 which is made of HASTELLOY7C-227 alloy which is a NiCr21Mo14w (Nickel, Chromium, molybdenum) alloy, the significance of which is explained hereinafter.

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**On page 4, the fourth full paragraph has been amended as follows:**

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A3

Referring now to Figs. 2-4, the filter media 16 is retained within housing 18 which is shown in greater detail and has a first end 20 and a second end 22. The housing 18 is cylindrical about an axis 24 and defines a chamber 26 having a shoulder 28 therein. The filter element 16 is disposed within the chamber 26 and abuts the shoulder 28. The shoulder 28 has a sharp annular edge 30 defined by a slightly conical portion 32 of the shoulder which bites into or penetrates the bottom surface 29 of the filter element 16 to provide a knife edge seal 36 so that the first end 20 of the housing is sealed with

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A3 respect to the filter element 16. Consequently, all of the gasses, liquids and solid particles within the drum 10 which pass through the vent 14 must pass through the filter element 16.

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**On page 7, the fifth full paragraph has been amended as follows:**

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A4 The filter element 16 comprises a carbon-to-carbon composite filter media which impedes diffusion of volatile organic compounds, eliminates the need for GAC B Pads TMS7 for drums or costly repackaging operations; resist chloride corrosion, and is 70% porous.

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